

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) participated in a public forum today on California water issues with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and other state and federal officials and issued the following statement.

“Today’s bipartisan forum to discuss water issues and the future of the Delta was a good opportunity to hear from leaders with a wide variety of opinions about current proposals.

“Finding solutions to the challenges the Delta faces is crucial for the future of the area I represent. The Delta is one of our area’s most precious resources and has a far reaching impact across the state and nation. It provides water to tens of millions of Californians, feeds agricultural land, offers space for recreational activities and is habitat for hundreds of species.

“I’m glad that federal officials are realizing that we need to address the future of water for California’s families. However, as this process unfolds, Delta communities must have the opportunity to offer input on any significant decisions and officials must be responsive to these concerns. Our voices will be heard.

“I’m going to continue to advocate for the Delta’s many stakeholders to have a voice in the process. I’m also going to work for solutions that are based on sound science and that balance water quality and availability as well as agricultural and environmental concerns.”

Today’s forum was held in Washington, D.C. and included briefings from the Bureau of Reclamation, University of California-Davis, CA Department of Water Resources, CA Department of Fish and Game as well as remarks from members of the California Congressional delegation. This is the second public meeting on California water challenges jointly held by Department of Interior and California officials.